

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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MARIO ESPINOZA,

Petitioner,

v.

WILLIAM "BILL" GITTERE, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:21-cv-00198-MMD-CSD

ORDER

On April 5, 2022, this Court granted 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas corpus Petitioner Mario Espinoza's motion for counsel and appointed the Federal Public Defender ("FPD") to represent Petitioner in this action. (ECF No. 30.) On May 3, 2022, Jeremy C. Baron of the FPD appeared on behalf of Petitioner. (ECF No. 31.) The Court now sets a schedule for further proceedings in this action.

It is therefore ordered that counsel for Petitioner meet with Petitioner as soon as reasonably possible, if counsel has not already done so, to: (a) review the procedures applicable in cases under 28 U.S.C. § 2254; (b) discuss and explore with Petitioner, as fully as possible, the potential grounds for habeas corpus relief in Petitioner's case; and (c) advise Petitioner that all possible grounds for habeas corpus relief must be raised at this time in this action and that the failure to do so will likely result in any omitted grounds being barred from future review.

It is further ordered that Petitioner has 90 days from the date of this order to file and serve on Respondents an amended petition for writ of habeas corpus, if any.

It is further ordered that Respondents have 45 days after service of an amended petition within which to answer, or otherwise respond to, the amended petition. If Petitioner does not file an amended petition, Respondents have 45 days from the date on which the amended petition is due within which to answer, or otherwise respond to,

1 Petitioner's original petition. Any response filed should comply with the remaining
2 provisions below, which are entered pursuant to Habeas Rule 5.

3 It is further ordered that any procedural defenses raised by Respondents in this
4 case be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other words, the
5 court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either in seriatum
6 fashion in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural
7 defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver.
8 Respondents should not file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural
9 defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
10 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If Respondents do seek
11 dismissal of unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they should do so within the
12 single motion to dismiss not in the answer; and (b) they should specifically direct their
13 argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*,
14 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short, no procedural defenses, including
15 exhaustion, should be included with the merits in an answer. All procedural defenses,
16 including exhaustion, instead must be raised by motion to dismiss.

17 It is further ordered that, in any answer filed on the merits, Respondents must
18 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state court
19 record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

20 It is further ordered that Petitioner will have 30 days after service of the answer or
21 responsive pleading to file and serve his response.

22 It is further ordered that any additional state court record exhibits filed herein by
23 either Petitioner or Respondents be filed with a separate index of exhibits identifying the
24 exhibits by number. The CM/ECF attachments that are filed also must be identified by the
25 number or numbers of the exhibits in the attachment.

26 It is further ordered that, at this time, the parties send courtesy copies of any
27 responsive pleading and all *indices of exhibits only* to the Reno Division of this Court.
28 Courtesy copies are to be mailed to the Clerk of Court, 400 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV,

1 89501, and directed to the attention of "Staff Attorney" on the outside of the mailing
2 address label. No further courtesy copies are required unless and until requested by the
3 court.

4 DATED THIS 4th Day of May 2022.

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8 MIRANDA M. DU
9 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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